

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-15. (canceled).

16. (currently amended): A method for detecting colon cancer cells in a test sample, comprising the following steps:

(i) measuring the amount of RNA in a test sample as the product of the transcription of ~~a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of (a) and (b):~~

~~(a)——a DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, and~~

~~————(b)——a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence at least 99.29% identical to positions 94 to 2934 of SEQ ID NO:1, and which encodes a protein having a cell growth accelerating activity;~~

(ii) comparing the amount of said RNA present in said test sample to the amount present in a sample from a normal colon;

wherein when the amount of said RNA present in said test sample is greater than the amount present in said sample from a normal colon, said test sample contains colon cancer cells.

17. (previously presented): The method of claim 16, wherein said test sample contains colon cancer cells when the amount of said RNA present in said test sample is at least 3-fold greater than the amount present in said sample from a normal colon.

18. (previously presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the measurement of the amount of RNA present in said test sample according to step (i) of claim 16 comprises:

- (i) reverse transcribing said RNA present in said test sample to produce cDNA; and
- (ii) subjecting said cDNA to polymerase chain reaction using the polynucleotides of SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 6 as primers, and determining the amount of amplified product produced by said polymerase chain reaction of the cDNA obtained from said RNA extracted from said test sample.

19-20. (canceled).